

**No. 10-2006 MONTHLY PACIFIC ENSO DISCUSSION FOR MICRONESIA  
AND AMERICAN SAMOA**

**November 2006**

The Pacific ENSO Applications Center (PEAC) disseminated the fourth quarter 2006 newsletter (refer to <http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/MET/Enso/peu/update.html>). The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) stated the following in its November 9, 2006 *ENSO Diagnostic Discussion* (refer to <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>): “Equatorial Pacific SST anomalies greater than +0.5°C were observed in most of the equatorial Pacific, with anomalies exceeding +1.0°C between 170°E and 145°W and between 130°W and the South American coast.” Weaker than normal equatorial easterly winds have been observed over the last several months and a negative Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has been observed over the last 6 months. As a result, the CPC observes that: “Collectively, these oceanic and atmospheric anomalies are consistent with the early stages of El Niño in the tropical Pacific.”

Most of the latest climate forecast models predict weak to moderate El Niño conditions into the northern hemisphere (NH) spring of 2007. These climate models then indicate a return to ENSO-neutral conditions by the NH summer, but we will have to monitor rainfall and tropical cyclone patterns through the spring before we can place high confidence in these predictions.

Tropical cyclone development and movement patterns for Micronesia and American Samoa will be displaced toward the east due to the El Niño. This means that the Mariana Islands, Pohnpei State, Kosrae State, and the Marshall Islands will see a 3-fold increase in their risk of experiencing a tropical cyclone for the next 2 months. American Samoa will also see increased rainfall and an increased risk of tropical cyclones with a possible early start to the season. At this point, we expect drier than normal conditions in Micronesia from December through the upcoming dry season, with most locations 30-40% below normal during the period. Majuro, Kosrae and Pohnpei should experience less dryness, but this is contingent on the expected return of the trade wind trough. At this time, we recommend that all locations that have limited water resources begin to implement procedures to conserve those water resources.

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Coordinated with the Climate Prediction Center and the Pacific ENSO Applications Center.